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A GROUP OF ARCHITECTURAL TERRA-COTTAS FROM CORNETO

IN a series of papers, which have appeared in this JOURNAL,¹ some written in collaboration with Dr. Leicester Bodine Holland,² and others written unassisted, I have endeavored to describe in a manner adequate to their importance the fine collection of Etruscan architectural terra-cottas existing in the University Museum in Philadelphia, and, to a lesser extent, in the Metropolitan Museum in New York. The articles that have appeared the more recently have dealt with a series of antefixes from Cervetri. It is the purpose of this paper to discuss a very interesting group of antefixes and fragments from Corneto.

Like all the other items in the collections of architectural terra-cottas belonging to the University Museum, these were acquired by means of the good offices of Professor A. L. Frothingham, and were divided into two parts on reaching this country, of which the larger came to Philadelphia, and the smaller to the Metropolitan Museum in New York.³

Figure 1 shows them as they appeared when they were found, and before they had left Italy. It will be seen that they were a large and imposing group of architectural fragments. One piece shown there, a revetment, will be recognized by those who have followed these studies in Etruscan architectural terra-cottas as

¹ 'An Etruscan Openwork Grill in the University Museum, Philadelphia,' *A.J.A.* XXI, 1917, pp. 296-307 (with Dr. Holland), 'Terra-cotta Revetments from Etruria in the University Museum, Philadelphia,' *Ibid.* XXII, 1918, pp. 319-339 (with Dr. Holland); 'Note on Etruscan Architectural Terra-cottas,' *Ibid.* XXIII, 1919, pp. 161-62; 'Archaic Antefixes from Cervetri in the University Museum, Philadelphia,' *Ibid.* XXIV, 1920, pp. 27-36; 'Etruscan Shell Antefixes in the University Museum, Philadelphia,' *Ibid.* XXIV, 1920, pp. 352-369.

² Now Fellow in Architecture at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

³ As usual, I am under an obligation of sincere gratitude to the authorities of the Metropolitan Museum for much courtesy and kindness.

having already been published.¹ In publishing it, the writer and Dr. Holland agreed in assigning it to the third century B.C.; and there is no reason to dispute this date, but rather to confirm it, from the evidence offered by the antefixes themselves.

No definite information has been available to tell us at what part of the ruins of the ancient Tarquinii these fragments were found. We cannot, therefore, determine what shrine was adorned by these terra-cottas. In date they are late in the Etruscan period, later, indeed, than the bulk of the tombs in the justly famous necropolis. They are said to have been excavated in 1895-1896, and were acquired by Professor Frothingham in 1896-1897.²

All of the fragments, with the exception of the piece of revetment mentioned above, are of antefixes, of the "shell" or "canopy" type; and it must be admitted at the start that they are not so interesting or so fine as those of this type from Cervetri.³ In the first place, they are of later date, and the technique, while perhaps more perfect than in the former examples, is, nevertheless, softer and less virile. Secondly, they are not nearly as well preserved. In no case does any antefix retain its complete "shell," and, therefore, it is harder to discuss the "shell" ornament, and practically impossible correctly to restore this decoration in detail. A third reason lies in the fact that we have little or no opportunity, as in the specimens from Cervetri, to trace the development of one type from another. Of this Corneto group, only three types exist, one male and two female, and they are all synchronous. These types will be numbered I, II, and III; while a fourth type, of much later date, and only included for the sake of completeness, will be called Type IV.



FIGURE 1.—ARCHITECTURAL TERRA-COTTAS FROM CORNETO.

¹ Luce and Holland, *A.J.A.* XXII, 1918, p. 328, No. 9, and pl. IX, No. III.

² As far as is known, the objects to be described have not before been published; nor have I been able to find examples of the types which they represent in any of the Italian publications accessible to me in writing this paper.

³ Luce, *A.J.A.* XXIV, 1920, pp. 352 ff.

Type I is one of the two female types, and is by far the most common, and the best preserved, of all. I know of nine specimens in this country alone, to say nothing of what there may be in Italy. Of these, six are in Philadelphia, and three in New York. The best preserved examples are two in Philadelphia, bearing the accession numbers MS1824 and MS1825.¹ To illustrate the type, No. MS1824 has been selected for publication (Fig. 2).

In their original state these antefixes must have been very brilliant. One of the examples in Philadelphia, No. MS1818,² proves this. Although on this specimen practically the entire shell has been broken away, the face is in perfect preservation,



FIGURE 2.—ANTEFIX FROM CORNETO:
TYPE I.

and the colors are nearly all still quite fresh, revealing the following color-scheme: The flesh is of a brilliant and rather chalky white; the lips, pupils of the eyes, lashes, eyebrows, and hair are of a red, which, in spite of its darkness, is nevertheless very striking; while the diadem worn on the head is a bright orange yellow. The top of the diadem, and the veil, which is represented as worn over it, and resting on the back of the head, are red and white.

One of the specimens in Philadelphia, No. MS1820³, has preserved a fragment of the base in front, on which the antefix rested;⁴ and the color-scheme there seems to have been a maeander pattern of white on a red ground; but the color is so poorly preserved on this specimen that we cannot arrive at any definite conclusions.

It will be asked if there is evidence to believe that the color-scheme described above applies equally well to all the antefixes of this type; and this point is well taken. In the Cervetri speci-

¹ As exhibited in the case, they bear the numbers 264A and 264B.

² Case number, 252A.

³ Case number, 252C.

⁴ This is the only specimen of the nine in which any of the base remains.

mens, we have seen that in minor details the antefixes differ from each other quite freely in the choice of colors employed. It must be admitted at once that no answer can be given to such a question, but that it is assumed, perhaps without warrant, that the color arrangement is the same on all the specimens of this type that we have.¹

The hair, which is worn parted in the centre, falls in waves along the forehead, and there are ringlets behind each ear, along the neck. The impression which the modeller seeks to create is of masses of hair; and this effect is very well obtained.

The design of the "shell" is of a tendril pattern, a marked departure from the conventionalism of the "shell" antefixes of earlier date, with their tongue patterns or palmette-lotus design. The leaves, branches, buds and flowers are rendered, as shown in Figure 2, in a most naturalistic and free style, indicating great knowledge on the part of the modeller, and the despair of the restorer of the pattern, as there is none of the top left on any of them to show how they went. Their color-scheme seems to have been to have the design in white on a background of which the inside was red, and the outside appears to have been black.

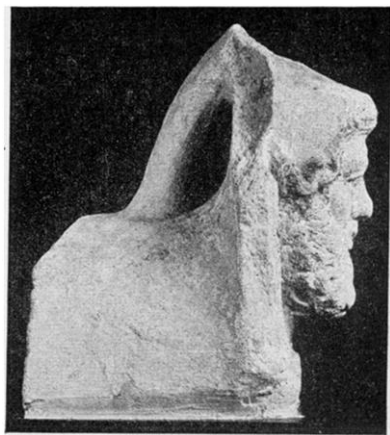


FIGURE 3.—PROFILE OF ANTEFIX FROM CORNETO: TYPE II.

In many cases considerable portions of the cover-tile remain at the back, which is held to the antefix by a short, thick, and solid buttress of terra-cotta, of the type shown in Figure 3, where the buttress of a male antefix of Type II is illustrated. It is the writer's belief that it is due to the structural deficiency of this type of buttress that these antefixes are so much less well preserved than those from Cervetri. A comparison of Figure 3 with the buttresses on the Cervetri specimens (Fig. 4) shows that

¹ See the color-scheme charts in Luce, *A.J.A.* XXIV, 1920, pp. 361, 366-367 for Types IV and V of the "shell" antefixes from Cervetri, to see how these specimens differ from each other in minor details of color.

in the case of the latter, the buttress was set further back on the cover-tile, and, therefore, gives the "shell" a firmer support, as it is necessarily of greater size and strength to accomplish this result. In the case of the Corneto group, the buttress is set too close to the junction of the antefix with the cover-tile to afford any great support to the "shell." The result is that the buttress is short and inadequate, and leaves the upper part of the canopy without any support whatever. The phenomenon exists in three of the six specimens in Philadelphia of Type I, for instance, of the buttress being completely preserved, while the top of the



FIGURE 4.—PROFILE OF ANTEFIX FROM
CERVETRI: PHILADELPHIA.

canopy is missing; and this occurs on only one of the specimens from Cervetri,¹ while the contrary is true in many instances in that group; namely, that the "shell" exists while the buttress is missing. This buttress, then, in the opinion of the writer, is inadequate and useless as a support to the canopy of the antefix.

It will here be convenient to list the number of specimens of the Corneto Type I that have been found, giving in each case the amount of the original preserved. To this will be appended a chart of dimensions which should

enable the reader to see at a glance the slight variations existing in the different examples.

1. Philadelphia MS1818. Parts preserved: head and small part of "shell," and the buttress. In no place does the full width of the "shell" exist. The colors on this specimen are unusually well preserved, and form the basis for the color-scheme evolved at the beginning of this paper.

2. Philadelphia MS1820. Parts preserved: face up to diadem; a part of the base at the right, and a large portion of the lower right hand part of the "shell." The left part of the neck is gone, as

¹ Philadelphia Accession No. MS1826, of Type V of the Cervetri antefixes.

well as the top of the head, including the diadem and veil. A small part of the cover-tile is left, but the buttress is missing. This is the only specimen of this type with any of the base preserved. This base is 2.5 cm. high, and is apparently decorated with a maeander pattern in white on a red ground; but as much of the color is gone, it is impossible to state this with accuracy.

3. Philadelphia MS1824. Published in Figure 2. Parts preserved: head; left side of "shell" complete for about half way up, and small parts of the top and right side, but in the former case not enough to give any idea as to how it should be restored. The buttress is preserved. Broken off at the neck, so that the base is missing.

4. Philadelphia MS1825. Parts preserved: head to chin (chin broken away); right side of "shell" complete about one third of the way up, and small fragments of the "shell" at the top and left. The buttress is preserved, but none of the cover-tile.

5. Philadelphia MS1827. Parts preserved: head (portion of right part of head lost); and small portions of "shell" at the top and the left side. The buttress is missing.

6. Philadelphia MS2143. All that remains of this specimen is the top of the head, with the hair, diadem, and veil, and the beginning of the top of the "shell." The top of the buttress is also preserved.

7. New York GR1025. Parts preserved: head, neck and beginning of base at centre, and fragments of the bottom of the "shell" at left and right, and the beginning of the top as well. The buttress is also preserved. The colors are nearly all missing, and the specimen has a battered look.

8. New York GR1026. Parts preserved: head to chin; and a small piece of the top of the "shell," but not enough to make it possible to effect a restoration. There has been a slanting break at the left, that has taken away most of the left background of the face.

9. New York GR1029. Parts preserved: head, and part of the beginning of the shell at the top. The background of the head has entirely gone. The colors on this are better preserved than on any of the other New York specimens.

In the chart that follows, it will be noticed at once how very uniform the inner measurements (*i.e.*, those of the head) are. This proves that a very uniform clay was used for each specimen,

and that due allowance seems to have been made for shrinkage in the mould.

CHART OF DIMENSIONS OF ANTEFIXES FROM CORNETO, TYPE I

Example	Height Over All	Width Over All	Height of Face, Chin to Veil	Width of Face	Width of "Shell"
Philadelphia MS1818.....	21.7	19.3	17.0	12.9	*
Philadelphia MS1820.....	19.7	19.8	14.2†	12.9	*
Philadelphia MS1824.....	25.3	29.8	17.0	13.0	10.0
Philadelphia MS1825.....	21.0	29.8	16.1†	12.9	11.0
Philadelphia MS1827.....	25.3	20.8	17.0	13.0	*
Philadelphia MS2143.....	15.3	17.0	*	*	*
New York GR1025.....	24.8	24.6	17.2	12.9	*
New York GR1026.....	25.0	22.1	17.0	12.9	*
New York GR1029.....	20.0	20.4	17.0	12.9	*

All dimensions are given in centimetres.

* This part of the antefix is lost.

† Measurement is given as preserved. If complete, it would probably check up with the others.

On the basis of Figure 1, and also because of the fact that only in Type I is any of the "shell" preserved, it seems best here to discuss a number of fragments of antefix canopies that are also said to have been found at this site. All of them are in Philadelphia. Two are illustrated in Figure 1; but they bring with them others, the design of which proves them to come from the same site. They will be discussed in detail, beginning with those of which the provenance is fixed by Figure 1.

1. Accession No. MS2130. Small fragment of antefix canopy, showing a tendril and vine decoration, almost the same as that existing on the Type I group, with slight variations, which prove that it cannot have come from an antefix in that group. Appears in Figure 1.

2. Accession No. MS2132. A larger fragment with the same design as the preceding. Evidences of color remain, showing a scheme of the design in white on a background, of which the inner part appears to have been red, the outer part black. Appears in Figure 1.

3. Accession No. MS2182. Small fragment, giving part of the tendril design already to be found at the base of the Type I antefixes. It belongs on the right side, about on a level with the left ear of the head, and includes the spiral and blossom shown

in the corresponding place on the opposite side in Figure 2. This object does not appear in Figure 1, but its design makes it absolutely certain that it is to be considered as belonging to the Corneto group.

4. Accession No. MS2203. Fragment with a design of almost, if not quite, identical nature to that on MS2130 and MS2132. It is safe to say that if they belong in the Corneto group, this one also must be included.

Somewhat less certain are the following fragments, which on grounds of similarity are assigned to this group. Neither of them appears in Figure 1, but a study of them has convinced me that they ought to be classed here.



FIGURE 5.—FRAGMENTS OF CANOPIES
FROM CORNETO: PHILADELPHIA

5. Accession No. MS2204. Fragment with similar tendril design, probably to be regarded as from a similar "shell," and belonging in this group.

6. Accession No. MS2235. Fragment of "shell" with a tendril decoration similar to that on the Type I antefixes.

These antefix fragments are illustrated in Figure 5.

As in the case of the specimens from Cervetri, there is a male counterpart to the female type, which we have just studied. This type, however, is not so easy to work with as the preceding, for three reasons. First of all, only four specimens are known to me in this country, three of which are in Philadelphia, and one in New York. This at once limits the field of investigation. Secondly, on none of them has enough of the "shell" or canopy been preserved to make possible a restoration of its design. It may, therefore, have been the same as that of Type I, or it may have been a variant; there is no means of telling from the specimens accessible to me. In the third place, the color-scheme of the type is very poorly preserved. I have selected a specimen in Philadelphia (Accession No. MS1822)¹ as the best preserved for illustration (Fig. 6), and it is plain how little remains of this type.

It will at once be noticed that the male type we have here differs radically from the grinning satyrs so popular at Cervetri, Falerii, and elsewhere. Instead, though the ears, to be sure, are

¹ Case number, 253C.

those of a satyr, we have a calm, almost Olympian, type of head. The eyes are deep-set, and the expression is thoughtful and benignant. This would seem to betoken the late date of the series, and add a weight of its own to the evidence obtainable from an examination of the female heads. The beard and hair are represented as heavy and thick; at the sides run small tendrils, which may be thought of as pieces of vine.

As far as it can be made out, the color-scheme of these fragments is as follows: the flesh is red, the hair and beard black,

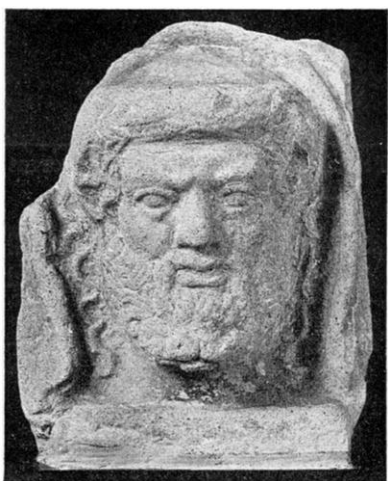


FIGURE 6.—ANTEFIX FROM CORNETO:
TYPE II.

irises of eyes white, pupils red, eyebrows and lashes black, ears red. The color is best shown on one of the specimens in Philadelphia, No. MS1821,¹ of which, however, only the head remains. The neck, as much of it as shows, is red, and the background against which the head appears seems to be red and black. Color was applied on a white slip, which was first laid over the coarse, porous clay. Of the example published in Figure 6, a small portion of the cover-tile remains, with the buttress of terracotta that supported the head

and "shell," which is shown in the profile view given in Figure 3. The same fault exists in the case of this buttress, that we have seen existed in the case of Type I; but here the execution and damage done is greater, as there is no example of this type, in America at least, where any of the "shell" is preserved.

Taking up the four examples separately, a detailed description will be given of each, followed by a chart of dimensions, similar to that given for Type I.

1. Philadelphia MS1821. Parts preserved: only the head. This specimen retains its colors better than any of the others, and it is from an examination of it that the color-scheme evolved above is derived.

¹ Case number, 253A.

2. Philadelphia MS1822. Illustrated in front view in Figure 6, in profile in Figure 3. Parts preserved: head, base, and about two thirds of the frame that separated the head from the "shell." A fairly good section of the cover-tile is preserved, with the buttress. This is the best preserved of all the specimens.

3. Philadelphia MS1823. Parts preserved: about one half of the base; the head, except for the left upper part, and from one third to one half of the frame separating the head from the "shell." The break in the head is very serious, the left eye and the greater part of the forehead being gone.

4. New York GR1138. Parts preserved: head and neck, broken off at junction of base; and about one half of the frame separating the head from the canopy. Next to Philadelphia MS1822, this is the best preserved of the four.

CHART OF DIMENSIONS OF ANTEFIXES FROM CORNETO, TYPE II

Example	Height Over All	Width Over All	Height of Head	Width of Head
Philadelphia MS1821.....	17.9	12.7	*	*
Philadelphia MS1822.....	24.3	19.8	18.0	13.1
Philadelphia MS1823.....	23.0	16.3	17.2†	10.1†
New York GR1138.....	22.6	21.3	18.4	13.1

All dimensions are in centimetres.

* Same as over all measurements.

† Dimension given as preserved.

The third type is female. It differs from Type I in certain details, but appears to belong in the same period. Only one example of this type exists in this country; it is in Philadelphia, No. MS1819¹ (Fig. 7). No trace of color remains on the antefix; the "shell," too, is broken off, so that there is no means of knowing what the ornament there was. This specimen appears in Figure 1.

The head is treated in much the same way as in Type I. The hair is parted in the centre, and is waved over the ears; at each side long tresses fall along the neck. On the head is a small diadem, and around the neck is a necklace, of a twisted, ropelike nature. Necklaces of this kind are often worn by the female figures on the lids of Etruscan sarcophagi and urns. Somewhat over one half of the base is preserved, but there is no trace of its decoration. Of the frame separating the head from the "shell," perhaps one half, all told, remains.

¹ Case number, 252D.

This antefix was considerably smaller, when complete, than those in the two preceding types, as the measurements of the head would indicate. As preserved, it has an over-all height of 19.4 cm., and an over-all width of 12.3 cm.; while the measurements of the head are: height, 13.3 cm., width 10.9 cm.¹

To these types already described, a fourth should be added for the sake of completeness. It is, however, in my opinion, of considerably later date. It appears in Figure 1, and is at present

in Philadelphia (Fig. 8), where it has the accession number MS1828.² It is a male antefix, with the head of a grinning satyr in the centre. It is very much the smallest of any in this group.



FIGURE 7.—ANTEFIX FROM CORNETO:
TYPE III.

The "shell" is very small, and seems to have been decorated with a palmette-lotus ornament. Only the bases of the palmettes remain, but in two instances the lotus is complete. The clay is buff, porous, and pebbly, and was originally covered with a white or cream-colored slip, most of which has disappeared. On this slip were painted the colors in which the various details were rendered. These, too, have largely disappeared, so that, on first

looking at the antefix, one is led to believe that it was never colored. The flesh, however, seems to have been red, including the eyes; the hair and beard were black, and the "shell" white on a red ground.

As regards preservation, we have noted that only the bases of the palmettes on the "shell" ornament remain. The canopy

¹ A comparison of these measurements with the norm for Type I, as given on the chart, shows roughly a ratio of 4 to 5 for the height, and 5 to 6 for the width, of the face.

² Case number, 249.

is also completely broken away at the right, and the nose of the satyr and part of his hair have been broken.

Coming to the style, Professor Frothingham, in acquiring this specimen, was inclined to place it at an earlier date than the antefixes just described. I venture, however, to differ from this belief, and, in confirmation of my point of view, would point to the fact that the "shell" pattern is late in design, while the satyr is modelled, as it seems to me, with a deliberate attempt at archaism. The modelling reveals knowledge not possessed by the truly archaic workers; and, therefore, I should be inclined to date this specimen in the second century B.C., or later. The small size of the antefix may also be regarded as pointing to the same conclusion.

This example has an overall height of 19.7 cm., and an over-all width of 15.6 cm., while the head is 12.2 cm. high and 9.7 cm. wide. Where preserved, the "shell" has a width of only 7 cm. at the top, and 6 cm. at the side. It will at once be seen, from a comparison with the charts

for Types I and II, and the dimensions given for Type III, how much smaller this Type IV is than the others from Corneto.

We have now examined in detail all the objects in the group of architectural terra-cottas from Corneto. It would be interesting to be able to link this collection with any specimens of the same types existing in other museums, especially those of Italy.¹



FIGURE 8.—ANTEFIX FROM CORNETO:
TYPE IV.

NEWPORT, R. I.

STEPHEN BLEECKER LUCE.

¹ Besides the persons referred to in footnotes from time to time in the course of this article, I am under debt to the authorities of the University Museum for the permission to publish these antefixes. I am also under a very special debt to Mrs. A. W. Van Buren (E. Douglas Van Buren) for much help and friendly counsel. She has not seen this article, nor can she be held responsible for any of the errors with which it may abound; but in the preparation of this paper

and of the one on the antefixes from Cervetri (*A.J.A.* XXIV, 1920, pp. 352 ff.) I have attempted to follow in the paths indicated by her in many courteous and friendly letters, received during the winter.

No attempt has been made to bring this group under the Law of Dynamic Symmetry. The fragmentary condition of the objects precludes the possibility of making sufficiently accurate measurements to work out a theme in any root rectangles for them.

I wish also to make a correction to a statement made by me in my last article, where I said, erroneously as I now believe, that the antefixes from Civit  Lavinia represent our earliest type of "shell" antefixes. I believe now that the antefix in Perugia, published by Fenger (*Le Temple  trusco-Latin*, p. 12, figs. 37, 38) is earlier, as it recalls in many respects the "stephan " type of antefix found at Cervetri (*A.J.A.* XXIV, 1920, pp. 33, 34, figs. 7, 8). Compared to this specimen in Perugia, the examples from Civit  Lavinia have a very sophisticated look, which would make them, in my opinion, about a generation later. Points of comparison between the Perugia type and the "stephan " type will be found in the earrings, the dressing of the hair, and the diadem. It is just a "stephan " antefix with a canopy added.